POLICY

High Peaks Hospice (HPH) provides short-term respite care for patients and families. Respite care is provided in any hospice contracted inpatient facility and is for a maximum of five (5) days.

A patient is eligible for respite care if they meet the basic criteria for admission to the hospice program and:

1. The caregiver evidences one or more indicators for respite care:
   A. Is overwhelmed with the patient’s care (example: complains of sleep deprivation; is abusing drugs/alcohol; has minimal or no supports and requires periodic rest from care giving).
   B. Agrees with the plan for respite care.
   C. Expresses a desire for respite care.

2. The patient:
   A. Has symptoms that are medically controlled.
   B. Agrees with the plan for respite care.

3. The attending physician agrees with the plan for respite care

PROCEDURE

1. The HPH register nurse (RN) will assess the need for respite care on admission and at least bi-weekly using the indicators listed above.

2. The need for respite care is documented by the RN in the patient’s medical record and reported to the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). Physician Orders are required to be signed indicating the change in level of care.

3. The plan for providing respite care is documented on the IDT care plan.

LAST REVIEW DATE:  IDT 03/07/18
LAST UPDATED:  Comp Coord 06/26/15, 01/01/18, 02/13/19
BOARD APPROVAL:  February 7, 2019